

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A dimmable lighting system comprising a fluorescent lamp driven by an electronic ballast comprising a self-excited drive circuit, and means for providing a variable DC voltage as an output, said variable DC voltage being ~~the~~ an input to said ballast.
2. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said means for providing a variable DC voltage comprises an AC-DC power converter connected between an AC mains and said ballast.
3. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 2 wherein said power converter comprises a step-up/down flyback converter.
4. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 2 wherein said power converter comprises a step-down forward converter.
5. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 2 wherein said power converter is a power factor corrected AC-DC converter.
6. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said means for providing a variable DC voltage comprises an AC-DC converter connected to an AC mains supply, followed by a DC-DC power converter providing said variable DC voltage as an output to said ballast.
7. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 6 wherein said AC-DC converter is a power factor corrected converter.
8. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 6 comprising multiple lamps in parallel.
9. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said means for providing a variable DC voltage is provided separately from said ballast and said lamp, and wherein said means for providing a variable DC voltage is provided with connection means enabling said means for providing a variable DC voltage to be connected between an AC mains supply and said lamp.
10. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said means for providing a variable DC voltage is formed integrally with said ballast.
11. (Currently amended) Apparatus for enabling dimming control of a nominally non-dimmable lamp comprising, means for providing a variable DC voltage, said means for providing a variable DC voltage having connection means that enables said means for providing a variable DC voltage to be located between a lamp fitting and ~~[[a]]~~ said lamp.
12. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 11 wherein said means

for providing a variable DC voltage comprises an AC-DC power converter.

13. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 12 wherein said power converter comprises a step-up/down flyback converter.

14. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 12 wherein said power converter comprises a step-down forward converter.

15. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 12 wherein said power converter is a power factor corrected AC-DC converter.

16. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 11 wherein said means for providing a variable DC voltage comprises an AC-DC converter followed by a DC-DC power converter providing said variable DC voltage as an output to said ballast.

17. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 16 wherein said AC-DC converter is a power factor corrected converter.

18. (Original) A method for providing dimming control of a nominally non-dimmable lamp driven by an electronic ballast comprising a self-excited drive circuit, comprising providing a variable DC voltage as an input to said ballast.

19. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein said variable DC voltage is obtained by providing an AC-DC power converter between an AC mains supply and said ballast.

20. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein said power converter comprises a step-up/down flyback converter.

21. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein said power converter comprises a step-down forward converter.

22. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein said power converter is a power factor corrected AC-DC converter.

23. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein said variable DC voltage is provided by an AC-DC converter connected to an AC mains supply, followed by a DC-DC power converter providing said variable DC voltage as an output to said ballast.

24. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 23 wherein said AC-DC converter is a power factor corrected converter.

25. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein said variable DC voltage is provided by a separate module that is located between an AC mains supply and said ballast.

26. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein said variable DC voltage is provided by a means formed integrally with said ballast.

27. (Currently amended) A method of converting a nominally non-dimmable lamp into a dimmable lamp comprising connecting to an AC mains supply a module ~~capable of~~ for providing a variable DC voltage, and connecting said lamp to said module whereby said variable DC voltage is provided as [the] an input to said lamp.